

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 35712 01 OF 02 071747Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----081820 071800Z /43
O 071746Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2742

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 35712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: POSSIBLE STATEMENT FOR
PRESIDENT CARTER TO MAKE AT OMAHA BEACH NORMANDY

REF: DOBBINS/JAEGER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION DEC 5

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A POSSIBLE STATEMENT THE
PRESIDENT MIGHT WISH TO MAKE AT OMAHA BEACH, NORMANDY.

2. BEGIN TEXT

THIS IS SACRED SOIL. SACRED BECAUSE OF THE
AMERICAN, FRENCH, AND OTHER ALLIED SOLDIERS, SAILORS,
AND AIRMEN WHO FELL HERE. SACRED BECAUSE THEIR CAUSE
WAS TO RID THIS CONTINENT OF TYRANNY.

FRANCE CAME TO THE AID OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THAT ASSISTANCE GUARANTEED THE
INDEPENDENCE OF OUR YOUNG REPUBLIC. AND WE DID NOT
FORGET. AMERICA JOINED FRANCE AND THE OTHER ALLIED
NATIONS IN TWO GREAT STRUGGLES TO PRESERVE OUR LIBERTY.

OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE REMAINED ALLIED FOR THOSE
TWO CENTURIES. WE REMAIN JOINED TODAY IN A GREAT AND
COMMON CAUSE TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOMS, OUR INDI-
VIDUALISM, THE LIBERTIES THAT GIVE OUR NATIONS THEIR
GREATNESS.

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THE REVOLUTION IN FRANCE FOLLOWED OURS WITHIN
A FEW YEARS. THE IDEALS THAT PROMPTED THE FRENCH AND
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS OF MEN
EVERYWHERE. THE LIGHT OF FREEDOM DOES NOT BURN OPENLY
IN ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH. BUT THE WISH FOR
FREEDOM CONTINUES TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ERASE.

IF NEED BE, WE WILL TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAIN.

WE HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE UP
ARMS. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH PEACEFUL PERSUASION THAT
FREEDOM WILL SPREAD OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 35712

EXDIS

IN THE CEMETERY NOT FAR FROM HERE ARE THOUSANDS
OF AMERICAN GRAVES. THEY COME FROM ALL RACES, FAITHS,
AND STATES OF THE UNION. THERE ARE FARM BOYS, LADS
FROM THE CITIES, YOUNG MEN FROM HUMBLE ORIGINS, AND
THE BODIES OF TWO ROOSEVELT BROTHERS REPRESENTING A
FAMILY THAT GAVE OUR NATION TWO PRESIDENTS. IN OTHER
NEARBY CEMETERIES LIE THE BODIES OF FRENCHMEN, CAN-
ADIANS, BRITISH, POLISH, AND OTHER ALLIED TROOPS, JUST
AS THERE LIE THE BODIES OF YOUNG GERMANS. THESE MEN
GAVE THEIR ALL. THIRTY-THREE YEARS AFTER THE GREAT
BATTLES OF NORMANDY WE MUST CARRY ON IN THE SUPPORT
OF THE SACRIFICES WHICH THEY ALL EXEMPLIFIED.

IN 1919, PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON DEDICATED THE
AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY AT SURESNES. IT IS AN
HONOR FOR ME AS AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT ANOTHER
CEMETERY TO PAY HOMAGE TO OUR WAR DEAD.

IF THESE YOUNG MEN HAD NOT MADE THE ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE, WHAT WOULD THEY THINK OF THE WORLD IN WHICH
WE LIVE TODAY? THEY WOULD FIND SOME OF THE EXTERNAL
SYMBOLS OF OUR DAILY LIFE UNFAMILIAR. BUT THEY WOULD
FIND THAT THE VALUES THAT WE IN THE WESTERN WORLD HOLD
MOST SACRED CONTINUE UNCHANGED. LET US JOIN TOGETHER
IN REDEDICATING OUR EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT THESE
VALUES WILL CONTINUE, AGAINST OTHER FORCES, SO THAT WE
MAY LEAVE TO OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN

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A HERITAGE OF TRANQUILITY AND FREEDOM. END TEXT.
HARTMAN

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